

**THE INDIANA EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION  
WAS HOSTED BY THE VANDERBURGH COUNTY LEPC  
INDIANA EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMITTEE (IERC) MEETING  
Civic Center Complex City Council Chamber  
1 N.W. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd  
Evansville, Indiana  
September 11, 2006 @ 1:00 p.m.**

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

Cliff Wojtalewicz called the meeting to order and thanked Evansville for their hospitality. Mr. Wojtalewicz stated that Bernie Beier and he enjoyed pizza, the riverfront area, the ballpark, the park and stated it is a very beautiful city. Mr. Wojtalewicz stated they also had the opportunity to visit the EOC, and stated it is a very state-of-the-art EOC and encouraged stated they should be proud if it and stated the IDHS will do whatever they can do to help support him in that endeavor of keeping it top notch.

**ROLL CALL TO ORDER**

Cliff Wojtalewicz — Proxy, Chair IDHS	Bruce Palin — Proxy, IDEM Commissioner
Dean Larson, PhD — Public	Robert Reilley — Global Security
Carol Shelby — Public	Sherman Greer — Local Government
Bernie Beier — Local Government	Mike Bigler — Proxy, State Fire Marshall
William Reed — Public	Thomas Melville — State Government

The following Commission members were absent:

James Prigden — Industry  
Michael Pace — Industry

The following staff members were present:

Laura Steadham — IDEM	Ian Ewusi — IDEM/IDHS
Gerry Hight — IDHS	Bradley Gavin — IDHS

The following were members of the audience that were present:

Jane Stout, Spencer County LEPC	Larry Robb, Posey Co. EMA Dir./LEPC Chair
Murray Stout, Spencer County EMA	Cliff Weaver, Evansville Fire Department
Jennifer Bierly, Spencer Co. Public Health Coord.	Sarah Wortz, Hendricks Co. LEPC Chair
Dwayne Caldwell, Vanderburgh Co. LEPC Chair	Christine Martin, Disaster Resistance Community
Al Perdue, Spencer Co. EMA/LEPC Chair	Faye Camp, Warrick Co. Public Health Coord & LEPC
Barb Ninke, Spencer Co. EMA/LEPC	Maddison Seib, Vanderburgh Co. Health Department
Adam Grove, Vanderburgh Co. EMA and LEPC	Mary sexton, Vanderburgh Co. LEPC
Sam Elder, Vanderburgh Co. Health Dept.	Duane Gilles, Evansville Water Dept/ LEPC
Andy Schroeder, Fox News 7	Joe Ballard, Vanderburgh Co. Solid Waste Dist./LEPC
Ron Sisle, Fox News 7	
Andrew Yager, WNIN	

## **QUORUM**

Mr. Brad Gavin conducted a roll call and it was determined a quorum was present.

## **CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES**

Mr. Wojtalewicz called for consideration of the July 10, 2006 meeting minutes. A motion was made by Mr. Larson and seconded by Mr. Greer to accept the minutes without amendment. Following no discussion, and after a unanimous vote, **MOTION CARRIED.**

## **REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

Mr. Wojtalewicz reported that Ian Ewusi was running late due to the rain and traffic so some of the agenda items will be discussed upon Ian's arrival.

Mr. Wojtalewicz reminded everyone of the LEPC conference on October 27, 2006, which is part of the EMAI conference at the Marriott East in Indianapolis.

Mr. Sherman Greer stated in the past the IERC picked up the conference fee, hotel and travel expenditures and wanted to make sure that expenditures would be paid this year by the IERC. It was determined that the IERC committee members will send their registration forms to Dolly Watkins to coordinate.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Communications Committee — Mr. Sherman Greer, Chair**

Mr. Greer reported that the Communications Committee did not meet since the South Bend meeting. The committee has been working with the Emergency Management Agency Alliance to coordinate the conference and to ensure that everything is in order. The Communications Committee will be meeting next week in Indianapolis to choose the awards for the people that filed for the awards this year. Ian Ewusi will be ordering the plaques for this year recipients. The last *Hoosier Responder* had the bios and pictures of the new IERC members. Mr. Greer stated that he has talked to several of the IERC members and it has been determined that a workshop for all of the new members of the IERC. needs to occur. After discussion it was determined that Mr. Greer would speak with James Pridgen to coordinate a workshop for all IERC members.

### **Technical Committee — James Pridgen, Chair**

Mr. James Pridgen was not present and the Technical Committee had nothing to report.

### **Training Committee — Chair Vacant**

Mr. Wojtalewicz reported that C.R. Brown submitted his resignation from the IERC and the Training Committee was previously chaired by Mr.. Brown is vacant. At the next IERC meeting a recommendation will be presented to the committee for a replacement.

Mr. Greer reported that he has been contacted by some of the LEPCs asking where to send their exercise proposal reports. They want to know if it will be alright to send them to Ian and Mr. Wojtalewicz stated that the reports should be sent to Ian Ewusi.

Mr. Al Perdue asked if the counties participating in the District 10 exercise, do they notify the IERC or go through the district? Mr. Bigler answered that depending on the funding; if it is funded through the Department of Homeland Security exercise and training money than you have to send your reports/requests to the state.

The recorder asked for a short break. During the break Bruce Palin, Robert Reilly and Laura Steadham arrived.

#### Policy Committee — Dean Larson, Chair

Mr. Dean Larson reported that the Policy Committee had not met and there was nothing to report.

#### LEPC COMMENTS

Mr. Dwayne Caldwell, the Vanderburgh County LEPC Chair welcomed everyone to Evansville and thanked everyone for their support. Mr. Caldwell stated that the IERC meeting is the capstone for the Evansville LEPC awareness week. Evansville is lucky enough to have a mayor and commissioners proclaim the LEPC awareness week. In the proclamation the final paragraph says “It is essential for local governments and the LEPC to prevent the accidental release of hazardous materials, to prepare plans for responding to accidental releases, and implement programs to protect the well-being of all residents and visitors”. And I think that's what LEPC is all about, is protecting and planning. Evansville had the chance to run on the coattails of the solid waste management district with Tox Away Day where it was found out that a lot of the population needs some information on sheltering waste and protecting themselves. Therefore, Evansville plans to work on that in the next year.

#### OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Mike Bigler reported on the IDHS ongoing programs. First, IDHS has been working hard to get the 800-radio systems spread out throughout the State of Indiana. There will be 800-capability with all of the HAZ-MAT teams, especially the major teams in the State of Indiana from the IDHS Operations Center in Indianapolis, the state police posts, IDHS command control vehicles. Second, IDHS has put together a NIMS compliant standard operating procedure for hazardous materials response teams and fire departments. NIMS is a good system, but it does not tell how to take that NIMS system and bring it down to street level as a fire chief or just a commander in charge of a hazardous material situation. The IDHS Training staff is double-checking and tweaking everything to make sure it is good to go. It will be posted on the website so that the local HAZ-MAT team or fire department can go download that and plagiarize that and change the names to protect the innocent and use it. Third, IDHS is working on the VX eradication and neutralization program. When the VX is finished being neutralized and if and when they ship it to New Jersey, it will be traveling through five DHS districts and 14 Indiana counties in its route out of Indiana. Ten hazardous material response teams respond to that route. A proposal is being put together to take back to Director Dietz and say here is what we think we ought to have to stand those teams up and have those teams all on the same page with training and equipment and ready to respond to this substance. This substance is, obviously, not going to be reactive it is going to be a caustic substance. However, there are some concerns about all the safety issues if there is an accident in one of the 700 and some shipments that will be going through Indiana. Fourth, IDHS is working to see if there is funding available to allow an Indiana Hazardous Material Response Team, whether it be Ft. Wayne or Evansville or South Bend, to come to a great training facility in Muscatatuck in Southern Indiana for a full scale one, two-day hands on exercise.

Mr. Sherman Greer stated that he has received several phone calls from the LEPCs wanting to know about the official list of trainers who can teach Hazardous Material training programs and where they can find the list. Mr. Bigler commented that the list can be obtained from the IDHS website. Mr. Cliff Wojtalewicz stated that a list would be provided to everyone and also list the requirements with steps on how to become a certified trainer on the IDHS website.

Mr. Bruce Palin reported that IDEM is going to be meeting and try to get the Tier Two reporting fees waived for the reporting via the website. Hopefully, this will encourage more electronic submittal of that information, which will help us to have our databases populated much more quickly and have more useful information available for the LEPCs and local firefighters. Mr. Palin stated that he hopes to provide a report on where we are relative to the Tier Two reporting and what options are available and what kind of fees, if any, at the next IERC meeting.

Mr. Ewusi stated that in region five, Minnesota and Michigan, when they got to this junction they actually decided to impose a fee on those individuals who preferred to file paper copies, and that turned the tables quickly. It really got the electronic filers, to go, way up. They have only less than five percent reporting by paper and these are people who can actually justify that there is some kind of hardship, and they have no access to the Internet and all that. So I would hope the committee would look at that where a fee could probably be derived for those who prefer filing paper copies.

### **EPA COMMENTS**

None

### **MEMBERSHIP ROSTER APPROVALS**

Mr. Ian Ewusi arrived and passed out the rosters for approval. There were six (6) LEPCs that submitted their rosters for approval:

Clinton          Delaware          Dubois          Grant          Monroe          Perry

Mr. Dean Larson made a motion to approve the submitted rosters, and Mr. Sherman Greer seconded it. Following no discussion and after a unanimous vote **MOTION CARRIED.**

### **Fiscal Committee — Vacant Chair**

Mr. Ian Ewusi reported that the Fiscal Committee did not meet and had nothing to report.

Mr. Ewusi reported that in regards to Training a request was received by Vigo County to have an instructor go over there and give some training. The trainer is Mr. John Bierman. Mr. Greer asked if he had been approved, Mr. Ewusi answered No, the training committee does not have a chair and has not met. Mr. Ewusi asked the members to review the resume and provide their feedback so that he could authorize it after the meeting. Mr. Ewusi reported that Joe Wainscot raised a red flag about Mr. Bierman not being state certified and the approval would be dependent on Mr. Bierman receiving this state certification. It was decided that Mr. Bierman would not be approved until becomes state certified.

### **REPORT OF THE FIELD COORDINATOR**

Mr. Ewusi reported that 54 LEPCs met the 2005 requirements and has received funding. Thirty-seven LEPCs are non-compliant because they have reported no activities or have turned in partial activity reports. The temporary staff member has contacted these LEPCs and 19 have something on file and the goal is to have them all compliant by the end of the year. It is bothersome that we are still chasing down 18 LEPCs to submit their activities so they can receive funding. After discussion it was determined the Policy Committee chaired by Dean Larson would take a look at the situation and report back to the IERC at the next meeting.

Mr. Greer asked Mr. Ewusi how he wanted those counties participating in exercises in District 10 report as a whole or individually? Mr. Ewusi stated that he would prefer each county to report separately for audit purposes.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be in Indianapolis IGC-S on Monday, November 13, 2006 at 1:00 P.M.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

On behalf of Eric Dietz, Mr. Wojtalewicz Dietz thanked everyone for attending the meeting and called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Larson and seconded by Ms. Shelby to adjourn the meeting. Following no further discussion, **MOTION CARRIED.**

Mr. Wojtalewicz thanked everyone again for coming and stated that their participation in the IERC is certainly appreciated.

**THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 2:00 P. M.**

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Cliff Wojtalewicz, Proxy Chair